



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

December 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

January 14: Wayne Michael, AC9HP, Parks On The Air (POTA) Presentation

February 11: Dave Arland's Annual CES Highlights

March 11: Jason Edwardson, from the Indiana War Memorial, USS Indpls Radio Room

April 8: RF Exposure Testing explained from ARRL

Highlights from the December Meeting:

Unfortunately, due to the low number of people that planned to attend the Holiday pitch-in, we held another Zoom meeting, with attendees encouraged to wear holiday attire. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 20 in attendance. David put together a presentation on “Linux in the shack”, as well as Raspberry Pi based programs that he uses. David has been running almost exclusively Linux based programs for everything since 2008. He typically only runs Windows as necessary to help others with Windows issues.

David first showed “[Hamclock](#)”, a “Poor Man’s Geochron”. He went through the many cool features of Hamclock. He also showed “[Gpredict](#)” for Satellite work. It’s a very versatile app for satellite work. Next he showed “[Gqrx](#)”, open source SDR software. Gqrx works with many low cost SDR devices. Gqrx is a very flexible SDR control package, capable of demodulating AM, SSB, CW, and FM-N and W (even in stereo). David explained that [Wine](#) is what runs Microsoft programs under Linux. He said that

it's not an emulator, that the dll's for numerous Microsoft apps have been re-written to work under Linux. David uses the free [LibreOffice](#) to work with Microsoft Office formatted documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.). David recommends either the [Ubuntu](#) or [Mint](#) distributions of Linux, and that a new install of Ubuntu typically takes around 10 minutes. David recommends [distrowatch.com](#) as a good site to keep track of distribution updates. He said there are TONS of free software available for Linux.

Next, David switched to his Raspberry Pi 4 desktop. He uses [QRLog](#) for logging and radio control from his RPi4 at his shack. David suggested [GGMorse](#) as a good, free CW decoder that is capable of running from a browser window. David next showed some different “JT Mode” programs. [WSJT-X](#) is the “defacto standard”, as released by Joe Taylor, K1JT (hence the term “JT modes”). However, there are other programs available that handle the JT modes with slight differences. David said [JTDX](#) is very popular with Japanese operators. [MSHV](#) is yet another program that runs FT-8. MSHV allows two simultaneous audio paths. [WSJT-Z](#) is capable of unattended operation (use caution if running unattended). [Fldigi](#) is what David uses for other more esoteric digital modes.

Next David took questions from those in attendance. When asked about “dual booting” a PC, David said Linux makes dual booting easy. You can also boot directly from a USB stick and play with it. You can also run a “Virtual PC” on Linux. See <https://www.virtualbox.org/> for more details.

The program adjourned to casual conversation and more slides of radio related activities at 8:35. Thanks to David for putting his presentation together on short notice. Special thanks to Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, for putting together the slides!

Ham Radio News:

2022 CLUB DUES ARE DUE, AND PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL NOW!

Club Dues are receivable at any time. Individual dues are \$20 per year, or Family dues are \$30 per year (all family members need to live in the same household). Dues can be paid with PayPal at treasurer@indyradioclub.org. Be sure to send the payment as a “friend”, **not for** “goods and services”. This will prevent any fees being assessed to the payment. For those that don’t have a PayPal account, you can send a check made out to “Indianapolis Radio Club” to Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have 30 annual members paid through 2022. To check your status, point your browser to <https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>

As an added incentive for membership in the club, once we start meeting in person, we will have periodic door prize drawings for items such as gift certificates for equipment vendors, and such. Only up to date members present at that meeting will be eligible for these drawings.

NEW HAMILTON COUNTY NET AND REPEATER

On Tuesdays at 8:00 pm the Hortonville repeater (443.950, 77Hz CTCSS tone) will be hosting the "Who Knows What?" net. This is not the standard check in only or social net. This net, in addition to standard check ins, also has a short presentation on a radio related topic. This net is intended to help those new to the hobby, as well as established hams. Anyone is welcome to join the net.

A new 2 meter repeater is on the air in Hortonville. This is at the same location as the 443.95 mentioned above. This 2 meter repeater is on 146.865, with a 77 Hz tone. This is a FM/C4FM Yaesu System Fusion auto sensing repeater. Note that the frequency coordination for this repeater is conditional, since it's pretty close to the 146.88 RCA club repeater, located on the west side of Indy, just outside of I-465.

2022 INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB VE TESTING DATES

Test Site: Salvation Army Disaster Training 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indianapolis, IN

Time: 12 PM, 2nd Saturday of the month

Jan 8

Feb 12

March 12

April 9

May None in May

June 11

July 9

Aug 13

Sept 10

Oct 8

Nov 12

Dec 10

HAMVENTION TO BE IN-PERSON EVENT IN 2022

Dayton Hamvention® organizers are planning an in-person show in 2022, following 2 years of COVID-related cancellations. The event is set for May 20 – 22 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Nominations for the 2022 Hamvention Awards opened on November 1. Hamvention seeks “the best of the best” nominees for its Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, Amateur of the Year, and Club of the Year awards. Nominations close on February 15, 2022.

For all the details, point your browser to

<http://arrl.org/news/dayton-hamvention-expects-to-be-live-event-in-2022>

DX NEWS STARTING TO PICK UP

First, FT4XW is hopefully going to be QRV soon, as he can work radio into his work schedule. According to his QRZ.com page, the operator is a brand new ham, and will only have a Xiegu G90 (20 watts max) with a vertical antenna, so if he gets on the air, it will be a challenge to get him. He is at Kerguelen Island, French Antarctic Territories.

Second, hopefully in December of next year, the Crozet 2022 team will be on the air from Crozet Island, which is a little over 600 miles north of Antarctica in the Indian Ocean. They are putting together a web site at <http://crozet2022.r-e-f.org/>

G4WJS, MEMBER OF GROUP THAT DEVELOPED WSJTX - SK

G4WJS, Bill Somerville, passed away unexpectedly a couple of weeks ago. He was very active on the WSJT-X and other reflectors, with five posts as recently as November 27. Bill was 65. He was part of a core developing group joining K1JT back in 2013, doing WSJTX version 0.99. K1JT credits Bill with essential contributions to make the software popular worldwide. He wrote code “for important portions of the Qt-based user interface for WSJT-X” and “helped to bring the overall program structure more nearly up to professional standards” and “devoted countless hours to program support, patiently answering users’ questions on WSJT-related forums”.

QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO PLANNED FOR MARCH

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return on the weekend of March 12th, 2022, and is looking for presenters. The key to the "Expo's" reach and influence is the wide variety and scope of presentations and speakers that come to the Expo. Unlike other conventions, meetings, and hamfests, the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has the ability to offer more opportunities for amateurs to make presentations that will be seen and shared by thousands of hams that come to the Expo.

For more information about being a speaker and making a presentation at the Expo, and to apply, please click on this link: <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/speakercall.html>

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Dec 21 2021

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Stephen M. Riley

(765) 425-4627

Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EOC

200 Delaware St

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Jan 08 2022

Time: 11:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 876-8689

Email: wfwootton@gmail.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: First United Church 08-01 session full pre-register

2420 E 3rd St

Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169
Sponsor: Indianapolis RC
Date: Jan 08 2022
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James K. Rinehart
(317) 721-1458
Email: k9ru@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
CALL AHEAD!!!
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA
Date: Jan 22 2022
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: jmarch54@att.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hamilton Cty Emer Operations Ctr
18100 Cumberland Rd
Sheriff's Campus Training Room
CALL AHEAD
Noblesville IN 46060-1624

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at
kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the December, 1959 *Amachewer*:

PROGRAM REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 27TH MEETING

The practical demonstration of oscilloscopes [sic] was put on by Norm Reddick of the Linde Co., Speedway Laboratories. He showed the group a Techtronic Dual beam oscilloscope (approx. \$1500 [*that's over \$14,000 in 2021 dollars!*]) which has two separate electron guns and is almost the same as two scopes in one. Mr. Reddick pointed out that during the early development of scope tubes someone had the theory there was an invisible ray coming from the cathode that caused the tube to be fluorescent, thus the name "Cathode Ray Tube."

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hendricks County HCARS Hamfest: February 12, 2022 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Building, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN. Details to follow.
- Hamvention 2022: May 20 - 22, 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Go to <https://hamvention.org/> for more info.

2021 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - treasurer@indyradioclub.org
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

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- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org